GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2001
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2007
CONSERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES
Patil Shri Pratik Prakashbapu

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether country is losing out on the possibility of excavating a large number of archaeological sites because of growing population and development activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many archaeological sites are buried under construction and cultivation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a Cultural Resource Survey is conducted with the help of an archaeologist before taking up any development project:

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to carryout such survey before the development of any project?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (g) In the absence of any provision in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959, that makes it mandatory to conduct a prior survey of cultural resource, presently no such survey is carried out at the time of taking up developmental projects and activities. Since records in respect of potential archaeological sites are not maintained, it is not possible to provide information regarding sites that may be buried under construction/cultivation.